

scarcer than the dark blues, and, like the 1s. deep rich red brown (No. 129) and the 2d blood red of the imperforate colonial issue of 1856-58, owe their attractive appearance and extra rich color to the faulty wiping of the plates before using. The 9d. in the early shade is known printed both sides with the fainter though none the less very clear second impression badly centred and printed sideways. Paper, wmk. Star with broad points was in general use for the 9d., 1s., and 2s. stamps from 1876 to 1902, consequently there were many different printings and almost as many shades. Especially is this the case with the 1s. stamps, and no matter how much study has been made of dated copies confusion is bound to occur, intermediate shades being the trouble. The earliest is undoubtedly that in the deep rich shade of red brown, which had only a short currency. No. 131 in rose brown, which name I prefer to lake brown, is a scarce shade, and, as far as I have noted, was in use about 1900, though 1887 is the usual date assigned to it. There were several printings of these 1s. stamps in sepia, each printing differing slightly from its predecessor. The black brown is in a very deep rich variation of this, and some of the late printing verge almost into the dull browns. The printing in black brown was only a small one, and consequently is not easily picked up. None of these later printings seem to have been bought in large quantities, and well centred copies are the exception and not the rule. There are three distinct shades of the 2s. with numbers of slight variations. The scarcest shade is the early one in carmine lake, which is only known perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$.

In the compound perforations, that is of the rotary 10 machine and the single line cutter $11\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, there are two distinct combinations; one with the large holes at the sides $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, and the other at the top and bottom $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The former are the earlier and always the scarcer in the stamps of Issue XI. The 4d. purple mauve, 6d. ultramarine, 1s. red brown and the later shades of the 2s., are not found perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10$. The 1s. perf. $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ is found in two distinct shades.

(To be continued.)

New Issues and Discoveries.

[Collectors in the other Australasian Colonies will confer a favour by letting us know, at the earliest possible date, of any new or projected issue of or alteration in the Stamps of their Colony. Information will be credited to the sender if so desired.]

AUSTRALASIA.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The authorities responsible for issuing the South Australian stamps for official use appear to do their work in a careless manner, for we have seen a number of specimens with the punctured letters "S.A." inverted. It is also apparent that the departments which use these stamps do not stock all values, as we have seen ordinary stamps used in conjunction with official ones.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—*S.G.M. Journal* chronicles a set of new unpaid letter stamps issued in November, which superseded the surcharged series. The design is a very neat one. In the centre are the words "POSTAGE DUE" on a horizontal label, with a group of Chinese characters above and below; outside these characters are curved labels, the upper one having Chinese characters and the lower one the words "IMPERIAL POST"; this forms a circular device, which is enclosed in a narrow upright rectangular frame with "CHINA" between two Chinese words at top, and value in English at foot. The background is of engine-turned pattern, and the whole is engraved in *taille-dence*.